

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the Abstract paragraph with the following replacement Abstract paragraph:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

~~A counter arrangement comprises a plurality of counter registers and at least the same number of checksum registers being controlled by control means. The counter control means change the content of only one of the counter registers for each change in the counting sequence and comprise means to update the checksum registers, whereby the content of each checksum registers is defined by an associated function which allows recovery of the content of each counter register and a function performed on the content of all checksum registers results in a constant value to validate the checksum.~~

A counter arrangement comprising counter registers where the size of a checksum register is equal to or greater than the size of the counter registers and that the registers are updated sequentially one at a time. The content of each checksum register is defined by an associated function which allows recovery of the content of each counter register and a function performed on the content of all checksum registers results in a constant value to validate the checksum. This provides a minimal size for a checksum register and a minimal number of registers updated per increment or decrement.